

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

AGR-20 COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

CPR-02 SY-10 RSR-01 /186 W
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R 1810"# Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3990

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6238

E. O. 61652: GDS

TAOS: PIN JA US EAGR PFOR

SUBJECT: MAF VICE MINISTER EIICHI NAKAO VISIT TO
WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

SUMMARY: PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND FORESTRY EIICHI NAKAO PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON NEXT
WEEK AT BEHEST OF MAF MINISTER YOSHIO SAKURAUCHI TO
EXPLAIN THAT POLITICAL SITUATION IN JAPAN MILITATES
AGAINST FURTHER LIBERALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
BY GOJ AT THIS TIME. AMBASSADOR USHIBA ARRANGING
WASHINGTON APPOINTMENTS WITH INFLUENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL
LEADERS, SECRETARY BUTZ, AMBASSADOR EBERLE AND OFFICIALS
AT DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND AGRICULTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. NAKAO, IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF, EXPLAINED THAT
SAKURAUCHI SENDING HIM TO WASHINGTON TO EXPLAIN TO
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES FURTHER
AGRICULTURAL LIBERALIZATION WOULD POSE FOR GOJ.
VISIT TIMED TO TAKE PLACE DURING COURSE OF HEARINGS ON
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NEW TRADE EXPANSION BILT. SAKURAUCHI FEELS THAT THIS
GESTURE MUST BE MADE TO MIKAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION,
12,000 MEMBERS OF WHICH MARCHED IN PROTEST TO DIET MAY 16
AND PRESENTED RESOLUTION AGAINST LIBERALIZATION OF ORANGE

AND FRUIT JUICE IMPORTS. IN DOING SO, THEY ALSO REPORTEDLY THREATENED TO WITHDRAW POLITICAL SUPPORT FROM TDP. BY GAINING UNDERSTANDING OF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS OF THESE POTITICAL FACTORS, NAKAO HOPES TO AMELIORATE WHATEVER PRESSURES MAY BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON COMMITTEE TO REVISE TRADE BILL ALONG PROTECTIONIST LINES. NAKAO SAID THAT HE PLANS TO CALL ON SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN HE KNOWS FROM ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN US- JAPAN PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGES.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, NAKAO TRIP BEING RELATED TO SECRETARY BUTZ TESTIMONY IN COMMITTEE HEARING ON TRADE BILL THAT JAPAN STILL MAINTAINS IMPORT QUOTAS ON 24 AGRICULTURAL ITEMS. SUNT TESTIMONY BY HIGH USG OFFICIAT INTERPRETED HERE AS RAISING LEVEL OF IRRITATION WITH JAPAN IN CONGRESS.

3. ANOTHER MAF OFFICIAT (UCHIMURA) INFORMED EMBOFF THAT NAKAO WILL SEEK TO EXPLAIN SPECTACULAR INCREASE IN JAPAN' S AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS FROM UNITED STATES DURING 1972 AND FIRST QUARTER 1973 UNDER EXISTING SYSTEM.

4. MOFA OFFICIAL (UKAWA) INDICATED TO EMBOFF THAT MOFA DISPLEASED THAT NAKAO TRIP PLANNED WITHOUT ITS CONCURRENCE.

5. NAKAO ATSO EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE TO MEET WITH EA/ J ERICSON EARLY IN WEEK TO REVIEW ALSO OVERALL STATE OF US- JAPAN RELATIONS, INCLUDING IMPACT OF PRESIDENT' S FOREIGN POLICY REYCRT. NAKAO WELCOMED REPORT PERSONATLY, BUT SUGGESTED THAT SAGV MESSAGE WOULD HAVE BEEN RECEIVED WITH MILDER REACTION TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO. NOW, HE POINTED OUT, SOME CRITICS GO SO FAR AS TO ATTRIBUTE ITS TONE TO QTE PETULANCE OF DECLINING NATION UNQTE.

6. NAKAO TENTATIVELY PLANS TO ARRIVE WASHINGTON MAY 25 AND DEPART JUNE 1. AKIRA ARIMATSU, COUNSELOR,
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AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BUREAU, MAF, PLANS TO JOIN HIM IN WASHINGTON. HIDEO SHIRAI, MAF, AGRICULTURAL ECON BUREAU, INTERNATIONAL DIVISION, WILL ACCOMPANY NAKAO. INGERSOLL

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